

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00  
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O R 141853Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1542  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
ERDA WASHDC  
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04229

T FOR SCHEINMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT TECH NL BR GW  
SUBJECT: BRITISH CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON URENCO IMPASSE  
OVER BRAZIL

1. IN DISCUSSING THE URENCO IMPASSE OVER THE SALE OF  
ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL. WILMSHURST (FCO ENERGY)  
OBSERVED THE DUTCH WERE STILL BEING  
DIFFICULT BUT THE OBJECTIVE REMAINS TO WORK OUT AN AGREED  
URENCO POLICY GOVERNING NUCLEAR EXPORTS IN GENERAL. HE  
ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UK WAS DOING SOME ROUGH  
CONTINGENCY THINKING IN THE EVENT THE DUTCH RECALCI-  
TRANCE ON THE BRAZILIAN CONTRACT CONTINUED. WILMSHURST  
SAID IF THE DUTCH WITHDRAW FROM URENCO, THIS WOULD  
MEAN A COMPLICATED REARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE BRITISH  
AND GERMANS. HE DID NOT SPELL OUT THE DETAILS BUT IM-  
PLIED THE UK WOULD BE WILLING TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE  
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DUTCH.

2. WILMSHURST NOTED THAT UNDER EXISTING RULES, HOWEVER,  
ALL THREE PARTNERS MUST AGREE ON THE SALE OF ENRICHED  
URANIUM TO A FOURTH COUNTRY--EVEN IF ONE PARTNER IS NOT  
A PARTY TO A PARTICULAR SALES CONTRACT. HE SAID THERE  
WERE THREE POSSIBLE APPROACHES IN THIS SITUATION. FIRST,

THE DUTCH MIGHT APPROVE THE BRAZILIAN SALE BY THE UK AND FRG WITH THE GERMAN SHARE OF THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL COMING FROM THE ALMELO PLANT LOCATED IN THE NETHERLANDS. HE DISMISSED THE CHANCES OF THE DUTCH GIVING SUCH APPROVAL SINCE THIS SO OBVIOUSLY WOULD DEFEAT THEIR OWN PURPOSES. SECOND, ALL THE MATERIAL COULD COME FROM THE UK PLANT AT CAPENHURST. THIS WOULD STILL REQUIRE AFFIRMATIVE DUTCH APPROVAL (BUT SEEMS MORE WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY). THIRD, THAT PART OF THE ALMELO TREATY REQUIRING UNANIMOUS CONSENT COULD BE PUT IN SUSPENSE AND THE SALE COULD BE APPROVED, THE GERMANS COULD CONSTRUCT A CENTRIFUGE PLANT LOCATED IN GERMANY AND THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL COULD BE DELIVERED TO BRAZIL WHEN NEEDED IN THE EARLY 1980S AFTER THE ALMELO TREATY EXPIRED. WILMSHURST VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE ALSO WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ALL THREE PARTNERS TO AGREE ON.

3. WILMSHURST SAID FONSEC OWEN IS PLANNING TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GERMAN FONMIN GENSCHER BUT WOULD DELAY UNTIL FCO WAS BRIEFED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S TALKS IN BONN AND GENSHER'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK SO THAT THESE COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST INFORMATION WHICH SECRETARY VANCE TOLD FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN DURING MARCH 10 MEETING HE WOULD AUTHORIZE US TO PASS ON.  
SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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